

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor memory device for error correction  
5 encoding and decoding able to avoid erroneous judgment  
occurring due to erroneous correction when a nonvolatile  
memory is in a predetermined initial state, wherein, at  
the time of writing, write data and predetermined status  
data, for example, erasure data when the nonvolatile  
10 memory is in an erasure state are compared and, when the  
result of the comparison is that the write data coincides  
with the erasure data, the erasure data is selected and,  
conversely when they do not coincide, the encoded data  
obtained by error correction encoding the write data is  
15 selected and written into the nonvolatile memory, while  
at the time of reading, when the result of the comparison  
between the read data and the erasure data from the  
nonvolatile memory is that the read data coincides with  
the erasure data, the erasure data is selected and,  
20 conversely when they do not coincide, the decoded data  
obtained by error correction decoding the read data is  
selected and output.